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The Standard.

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HOW LLOYD GEORGE ANSWERED.

When former Premier Asquith sought to draw from Premier Lloyd George a statement as to the plans outlined by the Versailles conference, Lloyd George instantly answered:

"I shall not tell that which the enemy would give a great deal to know." The members of the House of Commons broke into a mighty cheer, which was a hearty endorsement of Lloyd George and a rebuke for Asquith.

But Asquith hastened to declare he had no thought of drawing out any military secret.

Had it not been for the dismal effect the attacks of Senators Chamberlain, Weeks, Hitchcock and Wadsworth had on the country, Secretary Baker likewise would have been justified in telling those carping critics that their questions were ill-advised, impertinent and not worthy of an answer.

But Secretary Baker had to restore confidence in this country, because in a republic the people are the court of last resort and the makers and unmakers of administrations.

To have broken down confidence in our government at the beginning of our active entrance into the war would have been a national calamity, for then the people would have become unresponsive to the great demands, calling for sacrifices, which are to be made on them.

In reply to the nagging, harassing senators, Secretary Baker had to go into particulars, as generalities, though glittering, are not convincing. He had to show that, while his denunciations were insisting that at least 300,000 American soldiers should be in France by the end of 1918, there would be half a million men in France early this year and a million more before many months. He had to disclose that Joffre and Balfour and all the experts they brought with them had advised that American troops be equipped with certain guns and artillery, and their advice was being followed in every particular. And so on through the whole inquisition, Secretary Baker burned the truth into the thick heads of his accusers, but in doing so he had to make public information of great value to the Germans.

The next time the mischief-makers open their question box, the secretary should answer them as Lloyd George replied to Asquith, and he shall receive the plaudits of the public.

If Chamberlain, Hitchcock, Wadsworth and Weeks think they have serious complaints to make they should go quietly and unostentatiously to the White House and present their proof to the President. He is a loyal American.

can who will allow no serious breakdown to occur in our preparations, if he is made aware of the shortcomings. To take that course would not be spectacular or self-satisfying to a professional politician who insists on advertising his entrance into the breach of our national defenses, but it would be effective and, what is more, it would save the country from a disclosure of its military preparations.

SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN COMMENT.

One of the most independent, fearless papers in the United States is the Springfield Republican. In a late review of our war preparations that paper, touching on the speech of Secretary Baker, says:

"Baker's reply to his columnists is crushing. Unless one's mind is hopelessly biased against the secretary or the president, or is obsessed with ulterior purposes whose promotion calls for the secretary's downfall, it must be recognized that the achievement already bulks so large as to make the mistakes and failures of the department seem by comparison of minor importance in the record. Aside from the secretary's success in throwing new light upon mooted points in the mobilization, equipment and training of the army, which have been widely exploited, he has impressively recalled what most people have forgotten, namely, the necessity from the start of subordinating our own military program to the imperative needs of Britain, and especially of France.

"The inside story of the demands of France can not yet be told in its fullness, but Mr. Baker wisely gave us hints of the steadily increasing pressure to expand our operations abroad beyond all previous forecasts of the most probable contingencies. This knowledge must be considered, also, in connection with the frequent embarrassing changes in the character of the demands of our allies—their insistence in the beginning upon munitions, supplies and tonnage; their sudden cry for soldiers of 'moral effect,' and then for more and more soldiers; and still again, their shift back to supplies and tonnage in preference to man-power.

"In broad outlines, what are the results today? The government sent in 1917 a much larger army to France than the maximum of Mr. Roosevelt's own estimate early last summer of what was required. Roosevelt in June thought 200,000 men ample for foreign service. We have in France today much more than that number. Mr. Baker declares that 'early this year' we shall have an army of 500,000 in France, and that during the year we could send at least a million more, making a total of 1,500,000 soldiers in France before next winter. In thirty-two American training camps there are at this moment about one million men ready to sail, and every man of them could go armed and equipped.

"Consider, also, the vast engineering and construction work already done in France, or in process of accomplishment—great storehouses and plants for supplies, new piers in harbors, barracks for soldiers, road building for the British and French armies by our own regiments of engineers, and, to top all, a railroad 600 miles long for the use of our own army, for which

the entire equipment has had to be shipped from this country. These operations, at such a distance, are stupendous; our people can not take in their dimensions by any exercise of the imagination, although it is most easy for obstreperous faultfinders and pestilential politicians to fill our ears with outcries against the defects in a training camp site and the criminal delinquencies of a few medical officers on the home front, where the poison gas of politics is used to blind the country to the outlines of a colossal achievement in the making before its very eyes.

"Secretary Baker's achievement is not confined to what has been done in France or in the creation of a new army of a million men now ready to sail for the distant theater of war. He has in ten months radically reorganized the whole machinery of the war department—an achievement summarized in another article on this page. The 'drive' against him for the purpose of forcing him out of the position he now holds is unjustified by any body of facts that can be assembled in the face of what he has done. It would be injurious to the gigantic undertaking in which the nation is engaged to experiment at this time with a new secretary of war, who would necessarily have very much to learn before he could give to the country the best that was in him. Some of Mr. Baker's critics are now admitting that he has made great improvements in our war machine, but their latest cry is that he is not fundamentally 'sympathetic' with war. In heaven's name, what civilized man could be? The signs are many that the effort to destroy him is collapsing as it ought; for the good of the army and our cause it can not collapse too soon."

ARE FOOD TICKETS COMING?

"What are you doing in your home? Restaurant men are required to have a meatless and wheatless day, but are the homes obeying the rule?"

These questions were put to a Standard representative by the owner of a cafe, just after a government official had arrived to go through the place, having visited the bakeries of Ogden.

"Do you know," said the cafe owner, "the government agent informs me conditions are more serious than the people generally understand. While public eating places are being regulated, the homes are disregarding the requests to economize and the next move will be food tickets. There are boarding houses in Ogden where a meatless or wheatless day is unknown, and the government official says statistics lately gathered show the American people, because of the increased prosperity, are consuming more meat and edible fats, which are wanted for our troops, than ever before."

The restaurant man was not overstating. Owing to the failure of the people generally to save and reduce the consumption of meat, wheat and flour, food tickets will appear throughout the United States in less than six months. The tickets will limit the amount of food each family can purchase within a given time. There will be no attempt to reduce the supplies to the point of bare necessity, but no family will be allowed to gourmandize, while others are doing their duty toward food conservation.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN WAR WORK.

What a transformation is taking place in England. Nearly two million women and children have entered the industries of England to replace men sent to the front.

The question has been asked, What effect will this readjustment have on the health, morality, maternity and wage standards?

Prof. J. B. Clark, an American, under the pay of the "Carnegie Endowment for International Peace," has been studying this problem and he finds many evils have resulted, particularly among very young people. But safeguards are being adopted, and lasting benefits may be derived.

England has found under grim tests that protective measures for the health and safety of women and children in war industries, strictly enforced, are a necessity not only to conserve the nation's human resources but also to secure the largest output. Particularly in the crowded munition centers, home life suffered on account of the war. Over-crowding, long hours spent in the factory and in traveling back and forth, an increase in the work of members with young families, absence of husbands and fathers on military service, and the more frequent departure from home of young boys and girls for work at a distance, all contributed to this result.

Cases of over-fatigue among women were found and the effects when the excitement of war work is over and the strain relaxed are still to be reckoned with, says the author. "Higher wages, which meant warmer clothing, often better housing, and especially better food, were believed to be an important factor in counteracting damage to health. They doubtless accounted for the improvement in health which was not infrequently noted in women entering munitions work from

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POLLY MORAN IN SENNETT'S COMEDY AND GEORGE BEBAN IN
"JULES OF THE STRONG HEART."

lowpaid trades—a sadly significant commentary on their former living conditions.

Women are gaining a new outlook, it is declared. "Even the additional responsibility placed on many women by the absence of their men folk seems to have been one of the stimulating influences which are said in three years of war to have 'transformed' the personality of the average factory woman. She has grown more confident, more independent, more interested in impersonal issues. The more varied and responsible positions opened to women, the public's appreciation of their services, their many contacts with the government on account of war legislation also helped bring about the change, which promises to be one of the most significant of the war."

"Among boy munitions makers," the author reports, "the evidence of overwork and a decline in health were much more striking." A marked increase in juvenile delinquency is found to have resulted from the relaxation of child labor and compulsory school laws in the first days of the war, especially among boys of 11 to 13.

CATCHING MUSKRATS PAYS.

When the spring months come, a few industrious boys along the Twelfth street ditch and in other parts of Ogden once more will set their traps for muskrats. The youngsters are quite clever trappers. They watch the animals in their movements and soon discover the holes where the traps are placed under water. The business is profitable in a small way, but occasionally an intruder robs the catch and even makes way with the traps.

Those boys might follow the instructions of the government and, searching out a piece of swamp or marsh land, go in for muskrat farming.

A government report says the animals multiply much more rapidly than most other fur bearers, and, with pro-

tection in the breeding season, can be increased in great numbers. A bulletin says the practicability of muskrat farming already has been demonstrated. The animals are easily kept, become very tame, and breed well in narrow quarters. Under present economic conditions, however, keeping muskrats on preserves is more practicable than keeping them in restricted quarters. The former plan, it is said, is in remunerative operation in the Chesapeake bay region. In Dorchester county, Maryland, marsh land formerly considered almost useless, and now used as muskrat preserves, is worth

more, measured by actual income, than cultivated lands in the same vicinity. The owner of one 1,300-acre tract of marsh land seven years ago, took in two seasons more than 12,000 pelts which sold for more than \$9,000.

The animals require no feeding, since the plant life of ponds and marshes furnishes abundance of food. It may even be possible to "plant" the industry in sections from which muskrats are now absent.

FRENCH ENTER GERMAN LINES.
PARIS, Feb. 15.—French troops last night penetrated the German lines

northeast of Courcy on the Aisne front and returned with a number of prisoners, the French war office announced today.

Big Paramount all comedy program at the Lyceum today. Mack Sennett comedy, "Are Waitresses Safe?"; "Susie Slips One Over," and "Seeing Things." Forget your troubles and laugh for an hour and a quarter for 5c—Always—5c.

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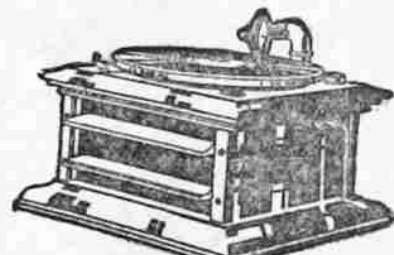
BACK FROM FRONT, FRENCH HEROES LINE UP TO
RECEIVE CIVIL AND MILITARY HONORS THEY WIN



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The respite from the trenches is doubly welcome when the order to drop behind the lines bears the information that the drop back is for the purpose of receiving honors. The French heroes in the picture are lined up to receive the honors from General Danzan and also from a civilian committee of the Oriental Lyceum.

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